

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 21 FEBRUARY 2012.

Present – Councillors Peter Johnston (Chair), Andrew Miller, Frank Anderson, William Boyle, John Cochrane, Martyn Day, Robert De Bold, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Ellen Glass, Isabel Hutton, Danny Logue, Jim Walker, Mrs Myra MacPherson and Mr Eric Lumsden

Apologies – John Hendrie and Elsie Aitken

In Attendance

Moira Niven, Depute Chief Executive (Education, Planning & Area Services)  
Ann Durnian, Education Development Manager

1. MINUTE

The Education Executive confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012 as being a correct record subject to noting that Councillor Johnston was a member of the EIS Union and not the EIS Council as recorded under Declarations of Interest.

2. ST NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOD FOR THOUGHT COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Education Executive was provided with a presentation by four pupils from St Nicholas Primary School, namely Jack, Aiden, Mya and Cara, who represented P6/P7 of the school. The Headteacher, Karen Brown, teacher, Carla Watson and Parent Council Mentor, Jude Spence, were also in attendance to provide an update.

An overview of the Food For Thought initiative was given advising that the cafe originated by the pupils while working on a block of learning about global citizenship. The three main areas demonstrated to develop the children's learning were:

1. Skills for learning;
2. Skills for life; and
3. Skills for work

The Fairtrade Community Cafe campaign was launched to raise awareness in the community. Support was provided by parents and a local business, Scotmid, also gave their support. The launch was also attended by an entrepreneur from BBCs Dragon's Den to support the initiative. The children advised that an eco zone blog was available to allow pupils to share in their experiences.

Work was carried out on a Social Enterprise Business Plan with support received from Mrs Spence. A number of areas were covered within the business plan which provided the children with experience in accounting, IT, HR, sales and marketing and food and hygiene.

The business plan was then sent to the Social Enterprise Academy. Due to the success of the initiative the school received a Social Enterprise Award and were invited to attend the Scottish Learning Festival at the Scottish Parliament.

Profits from the social enterprise initiative supported the school's sister school in Yendi, Ghana and local community groups supported by the St Vincent de Paul. An event was also held to raise funds for comic relief. The pupils reported that the cafe initiative has now expanded into bag production and a nail bar was also available within the cafe. The project helped the children experience ways to apply their learning into their working life and also gave them confidence to engage with local employers and opportunities to work with partners in the community.

During the course of the discussion it was highlighted how successful the Food For Thought initiative was and the question was asked whether it would be possible to expand the business into the wider community? Confirmation was received that this process had already commenced.

The Chair thanked the children, staff and parent council representative, on behalf of the Education Executive, for coming along to the meeting and for the very impressive presentation. He congratulated the pupils, staff and parents involved in the excellent work carried out and looked forward to hearing about the future progress of the Food For Thought enterprise.

Following the conclusion of the presentation the Education Executive noted the report by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) copies of which had been circulated. The report highlighted the success of the initiative which helped pupils develop their knowledge of running a business through their community cafe. The real life experiences enabled the pupils to develop a wide range of skills contributing to the outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence.

### Decision

1. To note the terms of the presentation by St Nicholas Primary School and the contents of the report; and
2. To note that the Chair congratulated the pupils, staff and parents on behalf of the Education Executive for the excellent work carried out.

### 3. ACTION TAKEN UNDER TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 31 (URGENT BUSINESS)

#### (a) Consultation on the Code of Practice on Teacher Competence

The Education Executive noted the approval provided to respond to the General Teaching Council for Scotland's consultation on an amended version of the current Code of Practice on Teacher Competence. The response was based on a previously agreed

Council position taken at the Education Executive meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

Decision

To note the action taken in terms of Standing Order No. 31.